



IS CIPA WORSE THAN SOPA?

June 21, 2012 · by [Noah Sidman-Gale](#) · in [Privacy Law](#) · [Edit](#)

The simple answer is yes, in the sense that [CIPA](#) has the potential to have a broader impact on Americans than [SOPA](#) ever did. SOPA targeted overseas websites that were accused of copyright infringement and would have given the Attorney General the power to serve the websites in question a court order to virtually disappear.

While SOPA has been referred to as a kind of “[internet death penalty](#)” for such websites, CIPA would be the death of online privacy as we know it. CIPA would literally give government agencies the power to amass the personal info of *all* Americans from private companies. The bill would supposedly increase cybersecurity, but it’s written in a way that obliterates user privacy immediately in exchange for *possibly* improving the security of the Internet.

Its most concerning section states “notwithstanding any other provision of law” companies may share information “with any other entity, including the federal government.” CIPA’s use of “notwithstanding” essentially allows it to trump all other existing federal and state civil and criminal laws, including the [Wire Tap Act](#) which states that any person or company who helps someone “intercept any wire, oral, or electronic communication”— unless specifically authorized by law—could face criminal charges. CIPA opens the door to a new era of information sharing between private agencies and our government, whose officials will be one step closer to tracking our every move.

Even more worrisome, the bill already has the support of companies like Facebook, Microsoft, Oracle, and Intel, while SOPA was defeated by a broad [alliance](#) of similar companies like Google and Wikipedia. SOPA was also staunchly opposed by millions of p.o.’d users, but because CIPA has the support of so many major companies, it has not gotten the same kind of publicity that would cause an uproar from users like you.

Just this past April, the U.S. House of Representatives approved CIPA with a comfortable [vote](#) 248 to 168, undoubtedly the result of the public support from the private sector. CIPA will meet strong opposition in the Senate, where Democrats are much less likely to pass the bill than House Republicans, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t something to worry about. The intention of the bill may be good, but its ambiguous wording has convoluted its purpose by creating an frightening [Big Brother](#) future for the Internet. Help protect your privacy, and write to your congressional representative to stop CIPA.



4 Responses



Valerie Adcock July 20, 2012 at 5:46 pm · [Edit](#) · [Reply](#) →

If CISPA is worse than SOPA, then why am I not hearing about it like I did SOPA? I am not doubting what you have reported here, I am just curious to know why this was able to slip by unnoticed. I didn't hear or read anything about it.



Neyha Bhat July 20, 2012 at 9:23 pm · [Edit](#) · [Reply](#) →

Hi Valerie,

Thanks for your question! CISPA hasn't gotten as much publicity and you haven't heard about it because it is endorsed and supported by a number of major corporations (I mentioned this briefly in my post) like Facebook and Microsoft, while SOPA was opposed by just as large corporations (Google and Wikipedia). These corporations have a lot of pull in the media, and have ensured that CISPA does not become as large of an issue as SOPA ever was.

Additionally, because opposition to SOPA was SO huge, it's been difficult to draw a comparable opposition for CISPA. Hope this helps!



Dusty August 6, 2012 at 5:32 pm · [Edit](#) · [Reply](#) →

None of these laws are going to get much play in the media because the media is owned by 5 megacorporations. These aren't independent stations like when I was a kid, MSNBC is owned by GE and Microsoft, you really think GE wants you to know they are spying on you? They are using Microsoft programmers to do it.

Of course there's no play. Big Brother is here and that's why Safe Shepard is such a boon.

BTW thank you Safe Shep.

Also the NSA doesn't want us to know they are listening in on ALL of our conversations.



Valerie August 10, 2012 at 4:02 pm · [Edit](#) · [Reply](#) →

Yes, it does help very much. Thank you!

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